

13 December 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 13 December 1967

The Director commented that Walt Rostow had just called to compliment him on the role of the Operations Center during the Greek coup.

DD/I reported that the Yemen paper should be finished by the end of the day.

Godfrey, in commenting on the coup in Greece, noted that the King remains in Larisa and is counting on swinging key military units to his side.

Kent announced that the Greek NIE is off the USIB agenda.



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DD/S reported that a pouch containing, among other things, two Secret OCI Weekly Summaries was stolen in Portland, Maine. (See Action 1)

DD/S&T reported that the U-2 flew last night.

Executive Director reported that Bernie Martin of the Bureau of the Budget's Office of Legislative Reference indicated yesterday that only CIA has responded to the Bureau's request for comments on S. 1035. Executive Director suggested that this matter might usefully be raised at the next USIB meeting, and the Director proposed that the DDCI ask the members of USIB to stimulate their respective organizations to compose their views on S. 1035 and respond to the Bureau's request for comments on the bill.

Goodwin noted today's New York Times story on the Soviet pilot killed in Yemen and the Washington Post article to the effect that the John Smith material has backfired in India.

DD/I reported that the Harvard anti-CIA imbroglio is now scheduled for 17 January.

ACTIONS:

1. The Director asked that a review of the distribution of the OCI Weekly Summary be undertaken. (OCI)
2. The Director asked DD/I to follow up on Walt Rostow's request to recheck CIA's figures on North Vietnamese troop strength.

L. K. White

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A RUSSIAN AIRMAN DOWNED IN YEMEN

U.S. Gets Reports Soviet
Pilots Aid Republicans

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12—The United States has received reliable reports that Soviet pilots have been flying combat missions for the republican Government of Yemen in recent fighting there.

American officials reported tonight that a Russian was shot down late last week by royalist tribes a few miles north of Sana, the Yemeni capital. He was reported to have died when his plane crashed.

Intelligence reports indicate that he had been on a bombing and strafing mission against Royalist positions when his plane, a Soviet-built MIG fighter, was shot down.

His body was reported to have been inspected by Royalists and European mercenaries fighting with them, some of whom read Russian. According to reports from Yemen, the pilot carried Soviet identification papers, maps and other documentation in Russian.

Pilot Was a Captain

These documents were reported to show that the pilot was a Soviet Air Force captain. His name was not given.

From this and other reports, officials here have concluded that some airmen are serving as combat pilots for a shipment of MIG-19 fighter-bombers hurriedly sent to Yemen in November to replace the departing Egyptian Air Force. Yemen had no known qualified pilots for these jets.

Diplomatic reports from Yemen last month indicated that the Soviet Union had promised to send the Yemen Government 24 MIG-19's and about 40 technicians to help assemble the planes. When the first planes were seen, partly assembled, at the Sana airport on Nov. 20, there was no evidence that Soviet pilots were also on hand.

There was no immediate indication of the size of the Soviet contingent. But American officials put the total number of Soviet military advisers and technicians in Yemen at about 50 men.

Previously the Yemeni republican regime leaned heavily on Egyptian planes to hold the royalists at bay in the country's five-year-old civil war. But this support was removed when the United Arab Republic agreed in late September to pull its forces out of Yemen.

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